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THE GREAT NORTHWESTERN SANITARY FAIR.

Some hundred thousand people of the great Northwest have just been drawn together at Chicago by a Fair, under the immediate auspices of the "Chicago Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission." It has been glorious!—this great tide, not of people only or chiefly, but of sympathy and of thought and of feeling, which has rolled in from hundreds of miles over those wide prairies, and along the foot of the distant hills! To one who stood there, looking on, it came like a great whelming torrent of love and power, and solemn earnestness, which was irresistible, carrying everything before it. All who were present unite in saying that they never before realized so fully the consciousness and the exhilarating and invigorating effect of breathing, as it were, an atmosphere which was literally filled with generous emotions and moral earnestness, and where every other element was absorbed or neutralized.

So quietly had the whole affair been arranged, and with such excellent method conducted, that when this immense concourse of people poured in from Illinois and Indiana, from Michigan and Missouri, from Wisconsin and Iowa, bearing their gifts with them, it seemed as if some sudden and mysterious impulse had taken hold of one-quarter of the whole nation, who had suddenly sprung to their feet, seized whatever of goods or riches were nearest at hand, and rushed forth led by music and banners; and when, at last, from all quarters they had met at the gathering-place, to which they had been instinctively drawn in their hurried march, they had, as by common consent, or a certain divine impulse, without asking why, laid down their treasures, simply feeling that God's altar needed these for burnt-offering—so generous, and earnest, and full of a certain kind of contagious faith seemed these men and women who were gathered there; and that was just the secret of the whole, which made it all so real to every one who was present, while to those who were not there, the narration of the facts must needs seem exaggerated and unreal; it was this irresistible evidence, told by eye, and step, and tongue, and hand—evidence of an immense faith—immense as taken in the mass—faith in God, faith in the nation's life, faith in our armies, faith in our leaders, faith in our people at home.

The contributions to the Fair, to be sold for the benefit of our sick and wounded soldiers, were large, were munificent, but it was this tone of deep-seated earnestness which was largest. It was not merely what men and women said and did, but the *way* the thing was done, which carried with it this impression of wholesale generosity of spirit. Delicately wrought articles, such as usually adorn the tables of Fairs, the work of ladies' hands, were not wanting; but then the farmers from miles and miles around kept coming in with their wagons by twenties, and fifties, and hundreds,

loaded down with their bulky farm produce; others came leading horses, or driving before them cows, or oxen, or mules, which they contributed instead of money, of which, perhaps, they had none; others brought live poultry which had been fed for months by the poor man's door; they brought this because they must bring something, and this was all they had. Some wagons were loaded from rich dairies, with butter and cheese by the ton. Then came great loads of hay from some distant farm, followed by others just as large from farms farther off. The mechanics brought their machines, and gave them in, one after another;—mowing machines, reapers, threshing machines, planters, pumps, fanning-mills—until a new building, a great storehouse, had to be erected to receive them; and here were ploughs, and stoves, and furnaces, and mill-stones, and nails by the hundred kegs, and wagons, and carriage springs,—and axes, and plate glass, and huge plates of wrought iron, (one the largest that was ever rolled from any rolling-mill in the world,) block tin and enameled leather, hides, boxes of stationery, and cases of boots, cologne by the barrel, native wine in casks, purified coal-oil by the thousand gallons—a mountain howitzer, a steel breech-loading cannon, a steam-engine made by the working-men in one of the manufactories of engines in Chicago—and on it this inscription—"This engine is donated by the workmen of the Eagle Works Manufacturing Co., every man contributing something—not one Copperhead in the whole institution." There, too, were other machines which had been built by employés of various establishments, who had worked "after hours" to construct something for the Soldiers' Fair. Such, with a thousand other gifts great and small, filled this new storehouse, where liberal purchasers were found waiting. Then, again, the carpenters and joiners, who, in the press of work upon unfinished buildings, could not leave their hammer and saw to go to the Fair, joined together by tens and twenties, and set apart a day of which they would give their earnings to the soldiers. In like manner, different firms would advertise a sale for the benefit of the Fair. Thus, "To the Loyal Stone-Masons of Chicago:" "We propose to donate to the Northwestern Sanitary Fair the entire proceeds of the sale of one canal boat load (20 tons) of our first-class rubble stone. Bids for the same will be received at our office till Friday next."

Signed ——, &c.

Then loaded wagons came in long processions, toiling into the city, from far-off country places, bearing marks of frontier service, and the horses or mules, together with the drivers themselves, most of them told of wear. Many of them were sun-burnt men, with hard hands and rigid features; and a careless observer would have said that there was surely nothing in those wagons, as they passed, to awaken any sentiment. Yet something there was about it all which brought tears to the eyes of hundreds as the old farmers with their heavy loads toiled by. Among the crowd of spectators there was noticed a broad-shouldered Dutchman, with a face expressive of anything but thought or feeling; he gazed at this singular procession as it passed,—the sun-burnt farmers, and the long, narrow wagons, and the endless variety of vegetables and farm produce,—he gazed there as these men with their sober faces and their homely gifts passed one by one, until when, finally, the last wagon had moved by, this stolid, lethargic-looking man "broke down" with a flood of tears, and could say nothing and do nothing but seize upon the little child whom he held by the hand, and hug her to his heart, trying to hide his manly tears behind her floating curls.

Among these wagons which had drawn up near the rooms of the Sanitary Commission to unload their stores, was one peculiar for its exceeding look of poverty; it was worn and mended, and was originally made merely of poles. It was drawn by three horses which had seen much of life, but little grain. The driver was a man past middle age, with the clothes and look of one who toiled hard, but he had a thoughtful and kindly face. He sat there quietly waiting his turn to unload. By his side, with feet over the front of the wagon, for it was filled very full, was his wife, a silent, worn-looking woman, (many of these men had their wives with them on

the loads;) near the rear of the wagon was a girl of fifteen, perhaps, and her sister, dressed in black, carrying in her arms a little child.

Some one said to this man, (after asking the woman with the child if she would not go into the Commission rooms and get warm:) "My friend, you seem to have quite a load here of vegetables; now I am curious to know what good things you are bringing to the soldiers; will you tell me what you have?" "Yes," said he: "here are potatoes, and here are three bags of onions, and there are some ruta-baga, and there a few turnips, and that is a small bag of meal, and you can see the cabbages fill in; and that box with slats has some ducks in it, which one of them brought in." "Oh! then, this isn't all your load alone, is it?" "Why no! our region just where I live is rather a hard soil, and we haven't any of us much to spare any way, yet for this business we could have raked up as much again as this is, if we had had time; but we didn't get the notice that the wagons were going in till last night about eight o'clock, and it was dark and raining at that, so I and my wife and the girls could only go round to five or six of the neighbors within a mile or so, but we did the best we could; we worked pretty much all the night and loaded, so as to be ready to get out to the main road and start with the rest of them this morning; but I can't help it if it is little, it's *something* for those soldiers." "Have you a son in the army?" "No," he answered slowly, after turning round and looking at his wife. "No, I haven't *now*, but we had one there once; he's buried down by Stone River: he was shot there; —and that isn't just so either—we called him our boy, but he was only our adopted son; we took him when he was little, so he was just the same as our own boy, and" (pointing over his shoulder without looking back) "that's his wife there with the baby! But I shouldn't bring these things any quicker if he were alive now and in the army; I don't know that I should think so much as I do now about the boys away off there." It was in turn for his wagon to unload, so with his rough freight of produce, and his rich freight of human hearts with their deep and treasured griefs, he drove on—one wagon of a hundred in the train.

As a proof of the interest felt by the people of Chicago in this Sanitary Fair, it may be mentioned that on the day the Fair opened, October 27th, the several courts of the city adjourned over the day, the post-office was closed, the Board of Trade adjourned, the public schools were not opened, the banks of the city closed, business of all kinds, whether in the offices, stores, shops, or manufactories, was suspended.

The following extract from the *Chicago Tribune*, one of the leading papers of the West, gives a living picture of that procession as it gathered up its forces and moved on, three miles in length:

"Yesterday will never be forgotten either in the city of Chicago or in the West. Memorable it will remain both as history and as patriotism. Such a sight was never seen before in the West upon any occasion; and we doubt whether a more magnificent spectacle was ever presented in the streets of the Empire City itself, than that vast procession of chariots and horsemen, country wagons and vehicles, civic orders and military companies, both horse and foot, which converted Chicago for the time being into a vast theatre of wonders.

"From the earliest dawn of the day the heart of the mighty city was awake, and long before eight o'clock the streets were thronged with people—citizens hurried excitedly to and fro; and country women, with their children, came in early in the morning, with colors tied to their bridles and decorating their wagons, and with miniature flags and banners on their horses' heads. On the house-tops, on the public buildings, flaunted the glorious flag of liberty. By nine o'clock the city was in a roar; the vast hum of multitudinous voices filled the atmosphere. Drums beat in all parts of the city summoning the various processions, or accompanying them to the grand central rendezvous. Bands of music playing patriotic tunes—bands of young men and women, singing patriotic songs, enlivened the streets. Every pathway was jammed up with human bodies, so that it was with extreme difficulty any headway could be made.

"The procession was advertised to assemble at nine o'clock precisely, and was composed of nine divisions, formed in the following order:

The First Division formed on Michigan Avenue—the right resting on Lake.

The Second Division formed on Wabash Avenue—right resting on Lake.

The Third Division on State Street—right resting on Lake.

The Fourth Division formed on Dearborn Street—right resting on Lake.

The Fifth Division formed on Clark Street—right resting on Lake.

The Sixth Division formed on Lasalle Street—right resting on Lake.

The Seventh Division formed on Wells Street—right resting on Lake.

The Eighth Division formed on Franklin Street, the right resting on Lake.

The Ninth Division formed on Market Street, the right resting on Lake Street, extending to Madison Street Bridge.

"As near ten o'clock as possible it started, banners flying, drums rolling, and all manner of brazen instruments stirring the air, and the hearts of the vast multitudes of people, with thrilling, exciting music. On it came, that mighty pageant! following the course laid down in the printed programme:

"From Michigan Avenue west on Lake to Market Street; on Market Street south to Washington Street; on Washington east to Clark Street; on Clark south to Harrison Street; on Harrison Street east to Michigan Avenue; north on Michigan Avenue to Lake Street; west on Lake Street to Lasalle; south on Lasalle to the Court-House Square.

"Such earnest enthusiasm as accompanied the procession, from first to last, has rarely been witnessed on any occasion. It was a grand and sublime protest on behalf of the people against the poltroons and traitors who were enemies to the Government, and opposed to the war. Bursts of patriotic feeling came from many a loyal bosom on that memorable and never-to-be-forgotten day. The people seemed to overflow with loyalty, and could not contain themselves. For a long time they had been silent, nursing their wrath, keeping alive their love for the old flag, keeping alive also their hatred of those that hated it—who had so long fired upon it in the rear—finding nowhere, in no event, in no newspaper, any adequate utterance of their passionate feelings. Now the mighty eloquence of that majestic and sublime procession spoke for them! That was the thing which they all along wanted to say—but could not! They were in themselves ciphers, mere units of the nation; but there, in all those thousands of men, they saw themselves multiplied into an incalculable, irresistible host, and felt that their hour of triumphant speech had come at last! That was the answer which they thundered out in trumpet tones to the miserable traitors who had so long torn the bleeding heart of their country.

"'I always knew,' said one old man at our elbow, in the crowd, whilst we were watching the procession, 'that the heart of the people was all right. They didn't know their danger for a long while. Now they've found it out—and this is what they say about it!'

"This procession was remarkable in many respects as a pageant, and particularly in the number of fine horses which accompanied it. A larger number of well-mounted men has rarely been seen in a civic procession. The police came at the head of it, under the command of Captain Nelson; a fine body of men, with capital horses, looking as bold and brave as heroes.

"After these followed, in stately march, the Michigan Sharpshooters; the 1st Regiment of Illinois State Militia, (Chicago City Guard,) a fine lot of fellows! and the whole of the First Division, with their bands, and flags, and panoply of war.

"Amongst these, the carriage containing the captured rebel flags attracted much attention, and excited great enthusiasm. These were the flaunting rags which the rebels had borne on many a battle-field, and which our brave Illinois soldiers had torn from the hands of their standard-bearers. There they were, *bellorum exuviæ*, spoils of war, flaunting no longer in haughty defiance at the head of rebel armies, but carried in triumph at the head of a civic procession in the peaceful streets of Chicago. Many a tearful memory they must have conjured up in the minds of many a spectator there present, whose sons were in the battles where these flags were taken; and many of whom are, ere now, at rest forever in their bloody soil.

"The Second and Third Divisions followed; and it was a most picturesque and pleasing sight to behold the long lines of members of the various Lodges, societies, and associations of the city, in their many-colored regalias. Then came the benevolent societies, the religious orders making an imposing spectacle, which it would require the painter's art to represent, and to which no words could do anything like justice.

"The Fifth Division, ushered by a fine band, and headed by J. Q. Hoyt, Esq., then came trampling by. There were scores of carriages, containing members of the press, the clergy, the municipal authorities, judges and officers of the courts, governors and ex-governors of States, &c., &c.

"One of the most strikingly beautiful features of the procession was a superbly decorated four-horse car, bearing the employés of the liberal-hearted Wheeler & Wilson Manufacturing Company, represented in this city by Geo. R. Chittenden, Esq., and suggestive, by the presence of working women and sewing machines at work upon soldiers' overcoats, of the utility of the sewing machine in clothing armies.

"Then the Sixth Division, consisting of wagons choked with children, singing the

song of 'John Brown's Body Lies Mouldering in the Grave!'

"Then the Seventh Division of butchers, horse-shoers—of ponies and oxen, contributed; and last, but not least—nay, greatest and mightiest of all—the sublime spectacle of the Lake County Delegation.

"THE LAKE COUNTY DELEGATION.

"A striking and noticeable feature of the procession was the long string of farmers' teams from Lake County. They came into the city at an early hour in the forenoon, and sufficiently early to join the procession. There were one hundred wagons, loaded to overflowing with vegetables, the staid old horses decorated with little flags, and larger flags pendent from the wagons and held by the stout farmer hands. It was a great and beautiful free-will offering of the sturdy farmers, whose hearts ever beat true to freedom and the Union. No part of the procession attracted so many eyes, and no heartier cheers went up from the thousands who thronged the streets than those given, and thrice repeated, for the Lake County farmers and their splendid donation. There were no small loads. Every wagon was filled to overflowing with great heaps of potatoes and silver-skinned onions, mammoth squashes, huge beets and turnips, monster cabbages, barrels of cider and rosy apples, load after load, with many a gray-haired farmer driving, face weather-beaten, frame rugged, hands bronzed, his old eyes sparkling with the excitement of the project his big heart conceived. And back of the farmer, mounted on the vegetables, were the boys, filled to repletion with fun. At the end of the route of the procession, the teams drove up to the Sanitary Commission rooms, and unloaded their precious freights of stores into the garners, whence they will go to the boys in the field.

"This harvest home was a sight to bring tears to the eyes of any man but a confirmed copperhead. There was an eloquence in it, a moral grandeur which spoke louder than any words. It told that the farmers, the bone and sinew of the country, were yet confident of success, that despair or distrust has not entered into their calculations, and that the boys in the field were worthy the best of their crops. There was no display, no advertisement lurking behind their contribution. It was a free-will offering from their great, generous hearts, for which they will have no recompense, save that best of all recompense, the blessings of the gallant fellows in camp and in hospital. God bless the Lake County farmers!

"The procession arrived at the Court-House about one o'clock, when the bands struck up some patriotic tunes; after which Thomas B. Bryan, Esq., addressed the people. * * * * *

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"AT THE SANITARY COMMISSION.

"The scene presented at the Sanitary Commission rooms was worth going a great distance to witness, and thousands improved the rare opportunity. Here more than 100 wagons were drawn up before the Commission, delivering their treasures to the agents who are to forward them to the boys in the field. The sidewalks and street were filled with boxes, barrels and sacks, and scores and hundreds of by-standers eagerly put their shoulders to the work, and were proud to take part in handling some of this soldiers' produce. Madison Street, for nearly a block, was blockaded for fully half an hour. Judge Fuller came to see what was the matter—why the Madison Street cars were so long delayed; but when he saw the cause, and the effect upon the people, he concluded passengers could well afford to walk around the 'blockade.' This grand donation was worth about $3,000—an immense amount of farm products of every variety—better than gold for the Sanitary Commission, and through them, for the boys in the field and in hospitals."

"The back room of the 'Commission' was filled with wheat; Mr. McVicker tendered them the use of his cellar, which was soon filled; next, B. W. Raymond offered storage room in one of his large cellars, which was gladly accepted, and promptly used. We regret that some photographist was not on hand to take a view of that crowd, and present duplicates of the Fair. They would have sold by thousands."

"While unloading their golden treasure, a messenger approached the farmers with an invitation from the Lady Managers to come to Lower Bryan Hall, and partake of a dinner in waiting for them. These sturdy, warm-hearted yeomen, accompanied by the Marshals of the several divisions, moved to Bryan Hall, where they were warmly welcomed by the ladies and all who were present."

It is impossible to describe in detail the various halls occupied by the Fair. No one hall was large enough. Bryan Hall, beautifully decorated, was filled with articles such as usually crowd the tables of fairs—only here the tables were burdened; and each morning after the sales of the previous day, the abundance was renewed.

This hall was brilliantly lighted in the evening, and crowded from nine in the morning until eleven at night.

Among the articles in Bryan Hall which attracted attention, was the original manuscript of President Lincoln's "Proclamation of Emancipation;" a gift of the Presi-

dent to the Fair. Some thousands of dollars will probably be realized from its sale.

In the large hall below, in the same building, were neatly arranged but richly loaded tables—each table seating some forty persons; and here, every day, some 1,500 or 2,000 persons dined. A matron presided over each table, and the young ladies of the city, tastefully attired, were the "waiters" of the tables. It was a sight not to be forgotten. All these supplies were "sent in" from the homes of the city and vicinity. This was continued with unfailing abundance during the two weeks that the Fair continued.

A third hall was the Supervisors' Hall—where the judge not only adjourned his court and gave up his room to the Fair, but gave himself to superintend that department. The following notice of this all is from the *Chicago Tribune*, as before:

THE CURIOSITY SHOP.

That which will probably prove one of the most attractive features of the Fair is what we shall call the "Curiosity Shop," which is located in the Supervisor's room, in the Court-House. We need not describe it in detail, but will say that about everything ever seen, or read of in modern books or newspapers, can be found there. First, there are the battle-torn flags of the 1st, 2d, 6th, and 10th Wisconsin Regiments. On the first is inscribed, "Chaplain Hills;" on the second, "Fourteen Battles;" on the 6th, "Five Battles;" and on the 10th, "Chaplain Hills." Then there are the battered and torn flags of our own glorious Illinois 19th. On one is inscribed the undying words, "Who'll save the left?" and on the other—"Stone River." Side by side with these, are the blood-soiled banners from Stone River, Arkansas Post, Hatchie, Shiloh, &c. Here are also flags captured from rebels in scores. One from the famous "Mississippi Devils," bearing the motto, "Our rights;" a Virginia flag captured at Gettysburg, on its folds "Dulce et decorum patria mori;" a Virginia State flag, the Rock Rifleman's flag; the flag of the Summit (Miss.) Rifles—"We fight for our rights—presented by the ladies of Summit." Another flag is suggestive of Floyd. It bears the motto, "We collect our own revenue," and it might have been added, others too. There are large numbers of others of this description of trophies of the valor of our armies, which are worth a long voyage to see. Then there are sewing machines, photographs, rebel butcher knives, horse pistols, books, fancy chairs, paintings, minerals, vases, side saddles, bird-cages, flower-pots, scimetars, guns, flower vases, trophies by the hundred, &c., &c., almost every one of which has a history which will interest the purchaser.

A fourth hall was devoted to the exhibition of works of art. Here were collected, and admirably and tastefully arranged, some 400 or 500 oil paintings, many of them works of great merit; carried into the Western world from Eastern, or even transatlantic homes. Some days before the close of the Fair it was stated that twenty thousand persons had visited this gallery of paintings. Here, as in the other halls, was music, added to the presence of ladies. A fifth hall was the new building where the machinery was exhibited, before referred to.

Besides the sales in the various halls there was, from time to time, an auction sale in the street, of hay and grain, and horses, and colts, and cows, and such other gifts as were not fitly placed upon tables.

Thus the Fair was continued until Saturday of the second week, Nov. 7th, the tide of supplies and of people from the Northwest daily flowing in. As a necessary guard against an utterly overbearing crowd, different days were assigned to different sections of the country, when they were notified that it was most desirable for them to come.

Each evening there was some entertainment, which "paid," in Metropolitan Hall, (No. 6 in order.) One evening ladies and gentlemen came down from Detroit, bringing all appliances with them, and presented a most charming set of tableaux. Another evening there were Shakespeare readings; another evening, Miss Anna Dickinson claimed and chained a thronged house, and so on.

Not from the "Northwest" only did friends and gifts appear. But there were persons and greetings from every loyal State and a glad quickening of patriotic sympathy in a work which embraces in its ministry of mercy a nation's army fighting in a nation's cause.

Not content with all of this work at the Fair, the ladies, as a fitting and beautiful close to their two weeks of toil, gave in the lower hall a bountiful dinner to all the in-

valid soldiers in that vicinity who were able to leave tent or hospital and gather there. It was a glad occasion, blessing and blessed.

Enough is said of the marvelous energy and wise business talent displayed by the ladies who had the Fair in hand, when it is stated that from beginning to end, for two weeks, there was perfect system, and no break, no jars in the machinery.

Altogether, this Fair, independent of the money realized from it for sick and wounded soldiers, has in its moral effect performed a grand work. States are connected closer, while the lines between them as States are less sharply drawn, and loyalty to the great idea of "nationality" has to-day a deeper holdupon the whole North-west, and upon the nation itself, than it had one month ago.

THE PRISONERS ON BOTH SIDES.

Whatever the merits of the controversy between the two Commissioners of Exchange may be, they have not the smallest bearing upon the treatment of the prisoners on either side. The claims of the latter to food and shelter are in no way affected by the circumstances, let them be what they may, which have for the present put a stop to their exchange. Even if our Government were ever so much in the wrong, either in its construction of the *cartel*, or in its computation of numbers, the idea of coercing it into the concession of the rebel claims by penalties inflicted on the Union prisoners, would be as novel, and as unprecedented, as it is inhuman. By the strict rule of war, neither party has the right to have its prisoners exchanged. Soldiers captured by an enemy may lawfully be held in durance until the war is over. The custom of exchanging them owes its origin to the desire which happily usually prevails in civilized countries, to mitigate the rigors of a strict assertion of right, whenever it can be done without injury to either of the combatants. But if either of them could believe or show that an exchange would serve his enemy more than it would serve him, or that the refusal to exchange would damage his enemy more than it would damage him, there is no reason in the laws of war why he should not hold his prisoners until the peace. In fact, prisoners, for whom the other side can offer no equivalent, are held, even when there is a *cartel*, and nobody would ever think of accusing their captors of cruelty in doing it. Exchange is, in short, a mere concession made for the sake of sparing brave men the burden of a long imprisonment in a hostile country; and if a belligerent refuses for any cause to make it, nobody has a right to complain except its own prisoners, and least of all the enemy. It follows, therefore, that the treatment to which our unfortunate soldiers are subjected at Richmond has not even the poor excuse of having been resorted to for the enforcement of a well-founded claim. It is, in every sense of the word, wanton and unjustifiable, and the violence of Mr. Ould's language, in his correspondence with General Meredith, naturally leads us to suspect that he knows it to be so. Vituperation is rarely used by men as used to discussion as he is, except in defence of things which are not otherwise defensible.

What renders the conduct of the Richmond authorities all the more heinous is, that their treatment of our prisoners stands in marked contrast to that which they have experienced at our hands, and scarcity of either provisions or clothing at the South puts no new face on the matter, inasmuch as the Government at Washington, and the people of the North through the Sanitary Commission, would from the outset have, on the slightest hint of such a state of things, have been only too glad to take the task of supporting our men off their hands.

We sent an agent to the hospital at Annapolis, Maryland, to examine the condition of the fresh batch who came from Richmond by the flag of truce on the 29th Oct. He says in his Report:

Of the 185 who escaped with their lives from the prisons of the rebel capital, eight died on the passage from City Point; several, almost immediately after landing, expired of inanition. Of 134 sent to the 1st Division Hospital, 43 had died up to Sunday last; and many more, exhibiting frightful signs of starvation, though still alive, are destined not to survive.

On their arrival at the landing, many were in a dying condition; and were *alive* with vermin, filthy, and almost entirely

destitute of clothing. Some had only shreds of a single shirt remaining, others the remains only of an old blanket around the body; such, in fact, was their condition in this respect, that the Surgeon in charge of the Hospital who was receiving them, had to send his wife and a female nurse away from the landing for decency' sake,—so nearly nude were these half-famished men; and so like living skeletons, that among them "a mother would not have not known her son."

Most of them were footsore; 120 were without shoes; and so reduced, many of them, as to be beyond the reach of food or stimulants to restore them.

On visiting them in the Hospital wards, I found many who were too feeble to relate their experience; from others I gathered that they are all unclothed, unsheltered and unfed. Knapsacks are always taken from prisoners, and their contents stolen. The sick only are sometimes allowed to retain a blanket; other clothing, and boots and shoes, almost always are taken. Upon Belle Island there is no shelter for the thousands there, most of whom are sick and half naked, lying upon the ground; sand is incrusted into the sore backs of some; and the unanimous testimony of all with whom I talked about the food was, that it was a "famine ration;" that men "starved upon it."

The rations, meagre as they are, are not served regularly,—but, their distribution is dependent upon the mismanagement and caprice of officers *who sell them*—thus sacrificing the very lives of their helpless prisoners for paltry gain. "I have known," said one officer, an intelligent Englishman, "I have known the Quartermaster *to sell all the bread he could find sale for* and send the rest to the prisoners."

Some describe their imprisonment as "a long struggle with hunger;" and say, that all who arrive "looking well and robust, soon show signs of physical weakness and exhaustion." In answer to questions as to clothing and shelter upon Belle Island, one man said, "the men mostly sleep in the sun in the daytime, and walk about all night, to keep warm." Among an accumulation of testimony, sufficient to fill a volume, I select the following, as bearing upon the treatment and rations given, and the general condition and *prospects* of our prisoners in Richmond.

George A. Rogers, 1st Vt. Cavalry, (late Captain of Cavalry in the British Army,) was wounded, and taken prisoner at Brandy Station, Va., Oct. 11th. "Soon as I was captured," he said, "I was sent to the rear, where my wounds, (one a severe sabre wound of the scalp,) which bled furiously, were dressed. My boots were taken away, and I was sent to Richmond to the Hospital, which I reached on the 14th." He remained there 17 days. "Prisoners," he says, "are *always* robbed of their shoes, boots and clothing, often all except the cap and jacket, which they never steal, *for fear they would be mistaken for Yankees and barbarously treated.*" "The ration in Hospital is 1½ ounces of meat, ½ pint of their bean soup, and 3 slices of bread daily." "A few fone bandages were distributed among the badly wounded, but no lint, and no medicines." In answer to my inquiries whether food and clothing sent from the North to prisoners reached them, he said, "Supplies sent directly to individuals, to men and officers, are given to them, *but clothing is not.*" He had "seen rebel officers wearing clothing with the U. S. Sanitary Commission's mark upon them, and heard men boast of having stolen them." This was corroborated by another man, a prisoner from Richmond, who heard his statement. "I have seen," he added, "half-starved fellows from Belle Island search about for crumbs on the floor on reaching the Hospital, and devour their first scanty meal like hungry dogs; so nearly starved are they when sent to Hospital, that none of them live more than two days. They all die." He described the destitution of soldiers in Richmond (rebel soldiers) as recently very great; "at one time they were on ¼ rations." "I saw some of our poor fellows utterly crazy from want and ill-treatment." Others had forgotten their names, and the number and name of their regiment." "The antipathy the rebels in Richmond feel for us is such as men feel for not dogs even, unless they are *mad.*" "When entering Richmond, our fellows were half dead with hunger and fatigue, and one of the rebel chivalry stuck a piece

of pork upon his bayonet, and shouted "Come on, you dogs—follow me!"

"On coming away, 185 of us were packed like herrings in a long, narrow barge, without clothes and without shelter, and so filthy that I overheard one of their officers say, "Don't let our poor fellows go on that boat." Both Capt. Rogers and others confirm the statement that *the rule is* to search all who arrive, and take money and other valuables; and books, even rings, are taken from the fingers. The Hospital ration is larger than it is on the Island, and at the Libby Prison, 3 slices of bread being given to the sick. The quantity furnished to officers is also larger than is given to privates."

Harrison Merchant, Private, Co. A, 16th Regiment, Maine Vols., taken prisoner at Gettysburg and sent to Belle Island, says, "They had some old tents there, but now nothing in the way of shelter is left but some old strips of canvas." The daily ration, he says, "was 10 lbs. of beef and bones for 100 men. It was sometimes bad; but we never minded that. One loaf of bread—often it was sour, and had lime in it—was divided in 6 slices; two slices and about ¼ pint of boiled dirty water with a teaspoonful of beans in it, was all we got; but sometimes we didn't get that. The loaf weighed about a pound. The guard got a whole loaf a day. We sometimes got 3 or 4 spoonsful of rice, but it was not boiled enough."

"The soup was made by adding 1½ pails full of soup in which the meat and beans were boiled to 20 pails full of hot James River water;" surely a rare work of art, to show how thin a Yankee soldier could grow and not die! One man said, "the *soup*, as they called it, was so thin, that except for the dirt in it, it would not stain a white handkerchief."

Oscar Eckell, Private, 24th Mich. Vols., was captured at Gettysburg, July 1st. On the 27th arrived at Richmond, and was sent to Belle Island with 500 other prisoners. "We all remained without any shelter, lying on the bare ground; my blanket, rubber blanket, and everything in my knapsack, was taken away. The meat that was served to us was often spoiled. There was such suffering for want of clothes, that the men scrambled for the rags that came off the dead; sometimes the corpses were robbed of all they had on; I saw a good many men on the island that were *insane.* The food we got wasn't enough to keep a baby alive."

William Read, Corporal, Co. K, 162d Regiment, N. Y. Vols., was taken prisoner at Springfield, near Port Hudson, July 2d. "We made long marches, all barefoot; many died on the marches from sun-stroke and exhaustion, for we had no food for 3 days." He reached Belle Island on the 6th August, and describes the vermin as "so great a curse, that the men tear off their only remaining rags, cry like children and go about naked," so intolerable is their suffering from this cause; *the whole earth moves with them.* Men could get paroled, first by paying $5 or $10; one squad of our men raised $280, and a valuable gold watch, which they gave to the rebel officers for a first chance to get away. The Island is very sickly, and is becoming a great grave-yard. We never got as much as two ounces of meat at a time; sometimes we got about a table-spoonful of beans, or rice."

Martin Pennock, Corporal, Co. G, 4th Michigan, says: "The dead are all buried by our own men, most of them without boxes. Sometimes 6 or 8 are sent down, never enough for all the dead. The men are fairly worn out with the labor of burying the dead. *There is no register of deaths kept.* The sick, even those that have been paroled a second time, cannot get away, because they are too weak to walk. To find out whether men have money, that they may steal it, they allow peddlers to come about and go into the prisons and bring food and tobacco for sale, and a spy comes with them."

J. W. Tailor, who was both in the Libby Prison and in the Alabama Hospital, says: "There were sinks in the prison, but most of the men were too ill and weak to crawl to them." The ration, according to Tailor, is 1 ounce; or, as he added, "only one mouthful," about ¼ lb. of bread, in the morning; at night, ½ pint of soup; at the prison, clothing, blankets and clothes are often taken from our men. One witness said to me, "Even tin cups were stolen from us, and then sold back to the owner for one dollar." Tailor was in a room in the Hos-

pital "with 284 others; all wounded, and many with fevers; all in one room, without beds or blankets, or straw even to lie upon."

"Our ration was bread, and *a pint cup-full* of rye, coffee, or the same quantity of soup made of rice and turnip leaves—*for twelve men.* The beans we got were always musty. In one room in the hospital were 81 patients with diarrhœa; 40 of them died. Sometimes officers who were kept in a room above us bought food—potatoes and bread,—and passed it down through holes where chains for hauling up tobacco passed. They often poured soup down to the hungry fellows, but they had to knock on the floor, and when the guard found us out we were deprived of our rations."

James Harrison, quartermaster's clerk, has scurvy; was sent to hospital, and remained there 6 weeks; was in charge of a rebel doctor. "They had no lint nor bandages, except some dirty strips like tent cloth. There were 300 cases, the doctor told me, of scurvy much worse than mine. For a few days they gave us raw potatoes —a few slices—and a little vinegar, and some tincture of iron, but they soon gave out. We then had only about a quarter of a pint of rice soup, with turnip-tops boiled in it, and a slice of bread and a little rye coffee once daily; that was all we got." He had no money when taken, but "5 others captured at the same time had $100 robbed from them. One man had a $20 greenback *exchanged* by an officer for $20 in Confed. money; that was taken charge of when we got in Richmond." Before going to hospital he was in Libby prison, and says: "While I was there, the room I was in was washed out every day, so the floor was always wet and muddy. It was our only bed. Some of the sick kept their blankets."

One of the prisoners described the floors of the prison as being "sometimes ankle deep in filth." Several with whom I talked describe the hospital ration as barely sufficient for well men "to keep alive upon; the sick were all too bad and weak to be benefited much by it." "At one time we were a week without salt, and then used to get only a little pinch of it." "Nearly 900 of us were crowded in a room 80 feet by 40." "The water of the James River, which was made into *soup*, when it was taken for the use of our men on the island, was black from the filth of sewers which empty into it. The bread is often sour, and the meat that we get, without salt, is disgustingly fresh. The rebel officers, when they can get salt for us, *sell it.* Our rice is always given to us half boiled. The quartermaster, after the bread is baked, sells all he can get pay for, and gives us our ration out of what is left. Our rations were purposely served after dark, and our meat—a mouthful apiece for 16 men—was thrown upon the floor in all the filth, where we had to divide it. The authorities and officers in Richmond treated us worse than a Christian would treat a mangy dog."

From the accounts recently published, there can be no doubt that there is great scarcity of food in Richmond. But *our* prisoners had only 10 lbs. of meat for 100 men; *their guards* had 25 lbs. *Our* men had their scanty ration served twice a day; *theirs* three times. For *ours*, a loaf is divided into six slices, and in some instances (when the rest is sold) only one slice is given daily; at the same time *their men* had a loaf apiece, and a quantity of rice besides. No one could see the men in the hospitals at Annapolis and doubt they were perishing from inanition. *I spanned the thigh of a man just dead with my thumb and middle finger.* And the longing eyes with which those that reached the hospital watched the food, the eagerness with which they devoured it, all told of starvation.

The Commission has caused a report to be made upon the condition and treatment of the rebel prisoners at Point Lookout, Maryland, one of the principal depots, and it is worthy of attention, if only for the sake of the contrast. Of the hospital the report says:

The hospital was situated in the southern part of the encampment, and was composed of eighteen hospital tents complete, arranged two together end to end, and placed in two rows, a broad street intervening with the cook and dining tent, on the eastern end, and facing the street. In these tents there were one hundred patients, and all, with the exception of five or six, were on raised bunks, and all were lying on mattresses, with at least one blanket for

covering. Eight of their own men were detailed to take care of them; and although they were enlisted men, yet six were graduates of some medical school, and the other two had been students. Four were graduates of the University of the City of New York; one of the School at New Orleans; one from the Eclectic School, Cincinnati; and the other two were students in the University of Pennsylvania — 'seceders;' still little or no attention did they give to their sick comrades, and, except in giving the necessary food and medicine, they scarcely ever visited them. There is either a lack of sympathy, or else indolence enters largely into their composition; and I am inclined to believe it is the latter, for, with the accommodations at their command, with good beds and shelter for the sick, if they had one particle of pride they could render them much more comfortable, especially as regards cleanliness.

Chronic diarrhœa is the most prevalent disease, yet they have mild cases of remittant fever and some erysipelas.

Mortality, none; for when any cases assume a dangerous character they are immediately removed to the General Hospital, and they generally remove from twenty to thirty per day on an average, leaving in Camp Hospital eighty sick."

The rations are very good, both in quantity and quality amply sufficient for any sick man; but there are exceptional cases where they need something more delicate than the regular army ration. The majority are perfectly well satisfied, and very little complaint is made in this particular. I will here give the quantities they receive in full, half, and low diet:

FULL DIET.	HALF DIET.	LOW DIET.
Dinner.	*Dinner.*	*Dinner.*
Beef or pork, 4 oz.	Meat, 2 oz.	No meat.
Potatoes, 4 oz.	Potatoes, 3 oz.	Potatoes, 2 oz.
Hard-tack, 3 oz.	Hard-tack, 2 oz.	Hard-tack, 1 oz.
Breakfast and tea.	*Breakfast and tea.*	*Breakfast and tea.*
Coffee or tea, 1 pt.	Coffee or tea, 1 pt.	Coffee or tea, 1 pt.
Rice, 2 gills.	Rice, 1 gill.	Rice, 1 gill.
Molasses, 1 oz.	Molasses, ½ oz.	Molasses, ½ oz.
Hard-tack, 3 oz.	Hard-tack, 2 oz.	Hard-tack, 1 oz.

Soup and soft bread is also given them at least once a week.

Of their shelter there can be no possible complaint, for they all have good tents, such as wall, hospital, Sibley, wedge, shelter, hospital, and wall tent-flies. The majority are in the wedge tent. Average in a hospital tent, from fifteen to eighteen men; in wall tent, from ten to twelve; in shelter tent, three; in Sibley tent, from thirteen to fourteen; in wedge tent, five; under hospital-fly, from ten to thirteen; under wall tent-fly, from three to eight. Of the shelter tents, only a very few are excavated and boarded at the sides, and almost every tent throughout the camp has a fire-place and chimney, built of brick, made by them from the soil (which is clay) and sun-baked. In a few of the Sibleys holes are dug, fire built, and covered at the top; generally the tents are filled with smoke.

The ration to the well men is:

Pork, 3 oz.
Salt or Beef, 4 oz.
Hard-tack, 10 oz.
Coffee, 1 pt.
} A day's ration.

Soup is also given once a week, potatoes and beans every five days, soft bread once a week; and fresh meat had been issued to them once a week, up to two weeks ago, when, from some cause I could not find out, it was stopped.

The kitchen and dining-rooms are in the northwest corner of the camp, and composed of six wooden buildings one hundred and sixty feet in length, with twenty feet off for the kitchen. Only five of the buildings are in use. The kitchen arrangements are very good, each one containing four caldrons, and in one five, each caldron capable of containing from fifty to sixty gallons. Breakfast and supper they relied upon hard-tack, tea or coffee, and there is no likelihood of their starving. The dining-room contains three tables, and each house feeds fifteen hundred and twenty-nine men, five hundred at a time. Seem to be well supplied with all necessary articles both for kitchen and dining-room.

I will make allowance for the condition of the kitchen, as they were just through serving dinner, and were making preparations for cleaning up; yet there was evidence of a want of care and cleanliness; still I found them in much better condition than I expected; there was such a vast difference that I did not notice as much the number of bones thrown from kitchen on the outside; still there were some.

The sick in quarters average from one hundred and sixty to two hundred, prevailing disease scurvy, yet a great many are troubled with diarrhœa, and as they gradually grow worse, are admitted to the hospital to be sent to the General Hospital. Those men who are sick in quarters, and who are unable to eat the rations given them, have instead, vinegar 3 oz., potatoes 5, rice 1 gill, molasses 1 gill—one day's ration; each man cooks for himself. They are troubled greatly with the itch, and it is spreading throughout the camp; and until sulphur was sent them by the Commission, they had nothing for it.

They have abundance of water in the camp, notwithstanding that several of the wells are unfit for use. The waters of those not in use are strongly impregnated with iron, and will stain white clothing a yellow or light brown. Outside of these there is an abundance of good water, and no excuse whatever for being otherwise than cleanly; but they seem to abhor soap and water; at least their appearance so indicates. A great many are employing their time in making brick, and have now a great quantity on hand. Others employ themselves in making rings, chains, seals, &c., from bone and gutta percha—and notwithstanding the complaint that they do not get enough to eat, you'll find them on the main street, which they call the "'Change," gambling both for money and rations. They have games at cards, reno, sweat-cloth, &c.; also, on this street they do their trading, hard-tack for tobacco, and tobacco for hard-tack. It is here that you will find them in crowds, sitting or kneeling in the dirt, eagerly watching the different games, and see them arise dissatisfied at having lost their day's ration. While thus engaged they are unmindful of the cold.

In the afternoon visited the Small-Pox Hospital, which is about a quarter of a mile north of the encampment, among the pine bushes, under the charge of Dr. A. Broadbent, Acting Asst. Surgeon. This hospital was opened two weeks ago, and up to to-day have received therein one hundred and thirty-three patients, during which time thirty-three deaths have occurred. The sick are in wedge tents, three to a tent, lying on straw on the ground, with a blanket and a half to a man. Their ration is the same, and bean soup is also given every day; to those not allowed it, coffee in its stead. The men are much more comfortable here than in the encampment, and those who are in attendance do not want to go back. I should also state that they occasionally get soft bread. No complaints at all; were getting along as well as they could expect.

THE SUPPLIES FOR THE RICHMOND PRISONERS.

The following letters explain themselves:

FORT MONROE, *Nov. 20th*, 1863.

DR. J. H. DOUGLAS,

Associate Sec'y San. Com.:

MY DEAR SIR—As I said in my last telegram, we were unable to send up all our stores from City Point, for want of sufficient transportation. As the Rebel boat could not return from Richmond until Saturday, the Colonel commanding the Union flag of truce boat deemed it advisable to return to Fort Monroe for another load; Capt. Hatch, of the rebel boat, having promised to bring down another lighter, which would enable him to take up all the freight our boat could carry. The convoy, the same boat that I went up on, will return to City Point to-morrow, and will take up all our stores on hand at Fort Monroe. The hospital supplies, such as beef-soup, chocolate, condensed milk, brandy, &c., I consigned to Dr. Wilkin, Surgeon-in-Chief of the hospital for prisoners, he having assured Colonel Irvine—late of Libby Prison, and now commanding flag of truce boat Convoy—that everything sent in that way should be devoted to the exclusive use of our sick and wounded soldiers; and Capt. Hatch, of the rebel boat, gave me the fullest assurance that the stores would be safely delivered to Dr. Wilkin.

In future, stores sent to the prisoners in Richmond should be divided into two classes—substantial food for the well men, and delicacies for the sick. The first should be marked "Libby Prison," or "Belle Island"—the second, "Hospital for Prisoners," Richmond, Va. The Sanitary Commission Stamp should be marked on each package, and the packages themselves

should be very substantially put together, as they are very apt to get broken with the many handlings which they undergo before reaching their destination.

Triplicate invoices should be sent with each lot of stores—two to General Meredith and one to me. Give the contents of each package and the number of packages sent. As the New York does not go up to-morrow, I shall not go up again for several days, or until we send another lot of stores. My principal object in wishing to go up on the New York was to ascertain all about her accommodations for making the returning prisoners comfortable. I believe they are quite ample, but I want to see for myself. Very truly yours,

JAMES GALL, JR.

MR. F. M. KNAPP,
Associate Sec'y San. Com.:

MY DEAR SIR—The flag of truce New York goes up to City Point this A. M., taking with her all the sanitary stores intended for Richmond, that have accumulated here during the week ———. General Meredith says he will send the flag of truce boat any time with a load of Sanitary supplies, and as the New York will be ready to go up again Tuesday, I would like to be able to send a large supply of substantial food—crackers, beef, potatoes, onions, &c., and of under-clothing, such as drawers, shirts, stockings, towels, handkerchiefs, &c. A supply of soap also is much needed, and would, I have no doubt, be gratefully received.

General Meredith says that for the present the Government will not send any more stores to the prisoners, as the proper disposition of those already sent is very much doubted.

The General says, however, that he has every reason to believe that the supplies sent by the Commission have been properly distributed. I will make every effort to gain information on this point. In the mean time, the Commission, with evidence before it that some of the goods sent have been received, should send forward large supplies of all kinds of substantial food and comfortable under-clothing, blankets, &c.

Very truly yours,

JAMES GALL, JR.

LIBBY PRISON, RICHMOND, VA., *November* 12, 1863.

To the Agent of the Sanitary Commission, Norfolk, Va.:

I have written you more than once through the *regular channel*, but fear the letters may not go. A private opportunity offers now. The goods received from you were of the utmost service to the officers here, a great many of whom were in very sad condition.

We need about 200 more shirts, same number of drawers, and as many blankets, unless we are to be exchanged soon; also some socks. *We have only corn bread (unsifted), a little rice, and a few poor sweet potatoes and water for our rations.* The bread is about half a pound; the rice half a gill. I had to-day eight potatoes; only two were good for anything—medium size—the others not larger than one's finger ! !

We are annoyed and indignant that while we are treated in this manner the Confed. officers in our hands are furnished with abundant rations, excellent in quality and variety, with good quarters, beds and blankets; while we are turned into this building, to sleep on the floor without blankets. Only one room here has glass; all the other windows are open to the full sweep of the north wind. No fires.

If perfectly convenient, I should like from the Commission a small box of preserved meats, fruits, &c., &c.

NEAL DOW,
Brig. Gen., U. S. A.

The *Richmond Examiner* publishes the following in explanation of the alleged refusal of the Confederate authorities to permit Colonel Irvine, in charge of Government supplies for the Union prisoners, to proceed with them to Richmond :

General Meredith, on the 12th, inclosed to our Commissioner the following letter, addressed to "Captain Edward A. Fobes, Libby Prison:"

"FORT MONROE, *November* 12, 1863.

"Captain Edward A. Fobes, Libby Prison, Richmond, Virginia:

"SIR—I send by flag truce, this day, twenty-four thousand rations, the distribution of which I authorize you to superintend. You will please forward me receipts for the same. Should the Confederate authorities allow this course to be pursued in subsisting our prisoners, I will consider

your receipts as evidence of the fact, and will keep up the supply.

"Very respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

[Signed] S. A. MEREDITH,

"Brigadier-General and Agent of Exchange."

Judge Ould promptly returned it with the following endorsement:

"Respectfully returned to Brigadier-General Meredith. This letter will not be delivered to Captain Fobes. I have to-day, in a letter, informed you that the rations, including candles, will be served to your soldiers. The manner in which that is to be done will be governed by our regulations, not yours. If you are not satisfied with those regulations, you can take back your rations and withhold any in the future. [Signed] RO. OULD,

"Agent of Exchange."

Another letter, written by our Commissioner on the 15th, assured General Meredith that whilst our authorities would not allow directions to issue from Fortress Monroe to a Federal prisoner in Richmond to attend to the distribution of rations, yet the provisions would be distributed in conformity with such regulations as would be established by the prison authorities.

The fact of the case is, that the identical provisions carried back to Fortress Monroe by Lieutenant-Colonel Irvine were immediately dispatched by the same hands to City Point, to be received upon the terms proposed by our Commissioner, and at the very time of the appearance of the *Herald's* editorial were helping to fill the greedy stomachs of the Yankee prisoners.

REPORT ON THE SANITARY STATE OF THE TROOPS AT CHARLESTON.

Gen. Gillmore landed on Folly Island early in July, his army being composed mainly of the troops now on Morris Island. On the 10th of July he crossed over to Morris Island with a portion of his command. On or previous to the 18th July, the day of the unsuccessful assault upon "Wagner," — of the — regiments now on the Island had come over from Folly. The remaining — regiments landed subsequently, after the evacuation by the enemy of "Wagner" and "Gregg."

The labors and duties in connection with the siege have thus fallen, not entirely equally upon the regiments now on Morris Island.

Of the —— regiments, —— have entered the department since January 31st, 1863. Most of these came from North Carolina.

The — regiments on Folly Island reached the department between the 1st and 17th August last, all from Virginia, excepting the two colored regiments, the 1st North Carolina and the 55th Massachusetts.

These troops have been subject to duties less severe and exhausting than those which have constantly been required of the command on Morris Island. I endeavored, but unsuccessfully, to obtain an official statement of the amount and character of the duties imposed upon the troops on Morris Island. The effect of these duties upon the physical and moral condition of the troops has been great, and I regret exceedingly the necessity of confining myself to merely general statements.

An important circumstance in the history of this command is, that it arrived before Charleston at the most unhealthy, sickly season of the year, after a summer spent in Virginia, and after the health of the troops had begun to suffer from unsuitable rations and the hardships of field service.

The sanitary condition of these troops immediately before they came to South Carolina was bad.

MORRIS ISLAND.—Morris Island, or that part of it which is not covered by tide-water, is a ridge or rainbow of sand some four miles in length, with an average breadth of perhaps one-fourth of a mile.

It presents to the sea a broad, firm beach, varies in altitude from a few feet to nearly or quite sixty feet, and has a westward slope more or less rapid towards the marsh, which embraces by far the larger portion of the Island, spreading out for miles towards the west and north, and intersected by innumerable creeks, and covered with a dense growth of coarse sea-grass.

The few straggling and scraggy palmettoes which once grew just above the western limit of tide-water have been cut away, while elsewhere there is little or no vegetation of any kind.

FOLLY ISLAND.—Folly Island, in its general formation, is similar to Morris. The bluff, however, is lower, having been washed

away by the unceasing encroachments of the sea. The beach is narrower, so narrow as to be unavailable for camp sites, while the western slope of the bluff either is, or has recently been, covered more or less densely with pines, palmettoes, myrtles and other indigenous trees.

Malaria.—Morris Island I believe to be quite free from malaria. The absence of vegetation, the sandy character of that part of the island occupied by our troops, the free exposure of the whole island surface to the sun, and the almost unfailing breezes from the sea, are conditions which must at least modify its developments.

Folly I cannot regard with the same favor. The part of the island above tide-water rolls in ridges towards the marsh on its western border, sinks to lower levels, and is more frequently swampy. The sand, over a consideable part of the island, is buried beneath a stratum of rich vegetable mould.

The ridges are covered with pines, and the slopes and ravines filled with palmettoes and a luxuriant semi-tropical vegetation.

Water.—The water on Morris Island is slightly brackish and insipid, although I know of no reason to believe it positively unhealthful.

The water on Folly Island is quite similar, and in many places is unpleasantly impregnated with organic vegetable matter.

I cannot think that the recent interments on Morris Island can much affect the health of the troops ; if so, it is not by poisoning the water, as has been occasionally reported. The burial-grounds, hemmed in by sand-hills, are more than a quarter of a mile from the nearest camps, while the dead buried elsewhere within the limits of our encampment are probably few in number. I believe the water to be at present pretty much in its natural state. How long it may remain so depends much upon the cleanly habits of the troops and the attention given to camp policing. The water is generally but a few feet below the surface, and the slops, refuse, and filth of our undrained and undrainable camps may be readily reached through the fine silicious sand.

Tents.—The wedge tent is generally used. I saw no Sibleys. On Folly Island many regiments have been compelled to make more or less use of their shelter tents. One regiment, the 41st N. Y., is scarcely provided with any others. The tents in use on Morris Island are, for the most part, very good. The tents on Folly are by no means as good. Measures have already been taken, however, to furnish the whole command with new tents, so far as they may be needed. Several regiments have just been supplied.

In a few camps attempts have been made to stockade the tents, but as a rule, they have been pitched directly upon the ground. Most of the tents are provided with bunks. In many, however, the earth is simply covered with straw, palmetto leaves, &c.

Policing.—Policing is too much neglected, as I have observed is generally the case where regiments are encamped by the sea, and waste and filth are quickly trod into the ground, or covered by passing sand-drifts.

The opportunities for policing are much better on Folly than on Morris Island. Still the work is too frequently but indifferently done.

Bathing.—However much the troops, profiting by their proximity to the sea, may have been inclined to indulge in bathing during the summer months, it is very evident that at present they are not disposed to avail themselves of their opportunities. During the fortnight I was with the army, I do not remember seeing but one person taking a bath on the beach. The men were generally represented as washing their hands and faces daily. But even this is by no means universal in any regiment.

Cleanliness.—I do not think there is the same general regard for personal cleanliness in this army that I have usually observed in the Army of the Potomac. The term *average*, which I have frequently used in this connection in my tabular abstracts, must, therefore, be understood as referring to a local standard.

In many regiments, the apparent want of cleanliness was excused on the ground of inability to get suitable water. The principal causes, however, are inattention to these matters on the part of officers, and indifference on the part of the men—both occasioned by the excessive duties necessarily exacted of the troops during an active but somewhat protracted siege.

Clothing.—The whole command appears to be very well supplied with clothing. In no regiment did I learn that there was suffering from the want of it. Perhaps the supplies were most limited in the 1st North Carolina (colored). In the hurry of leaving Newbern, a part of the regimental as well as personal baggage of this regiment was left behind. Occasional complaints were made concerning the quality of some of the new issues, and so far as they referred to the blankets, certainly with much justice.

Rations.—The almost uniform response made to my questions relating to the character of the rations issued to the troops was, that they were now fair in both quantity and quality—that fresh meat was issued twice or three times each ten days—that soft bread was quite generally served to the men—that fresh vegetables, potatoes and onions, were frequently issued. The troops who were sent from Virginia in August, very generally stated that they had no where been furnished with better rations. (In the tabular abstracts, I have uniformly represented fresh vegetables as "now issued more freely.") This is a general statement. Vegetables have not been equally distributed to the whole command. Probably no regiment has received less than two rations weekly—several have received as many as eight. They have been issued most freely when there appeared to be the greatest necessity for them. Five rations in ten days may approximate the average issues now made to each regiment.

During the first fortnight following the landing of the expedition, the whole army appears to have been put upon rather short rations, the issues consisting principally of hard bread and salt meats of an inferior quality—particularly was this the case with the former; shortly after fresh meat began to be issued. It was not, however, until some time in September that the Commissaries appear to have furnished the men with fresh vegetables.

Nearly the whole of these issues were made to the army before Charleston. The first potatoes, however, received by the brigade or post division, during the months of June and July, were not issued, and were only obtainable by purchase. (The private soldiers were rarely able to obtain a ration in this way.) During a part of this time vegetables could be obtained in very limited quantities, and at very high prices, from the sutlers. But it was to the Sanitary Commission that the army was for two months almost entirely indebted for its antiscorbutic supplies.

It may be remarked that the greatest want of fresh vegetables existed at a season when the Government agents found it most difficult to obtain their usual supplies in the markets, and that the want was by no means peculiar to the Department of the South. Still the very general and imperative nature of the demand should stimulate the Subsistence Department to either open new sources of supply, or furnish some antiscorbutic equivalent.

I cannot help thinking that the ration which has been issued to our armies during the past two years is one quite unsuitable for men who have been stationed, and are likely so long as the war may last, in warm latitudes. Meats are too freely used, vegetables too sparingly. There is an excess of carbon in the food.

A very considerable proportion of the diseases to which the natives of the North are subject within the tropics originates in a violation of one of the plainest physiological laws, that the quantity and quality of the food necessary to maintain the physical system at a given fixed standard of health will vary as the mean temperature of the atmosphere varies. Now the scorbutic taint which is recognized in all our armies from Virginia to Texas, arises quite as much from an excess as from a deficiency of certain elements in the blood; a fact which we lose sight of too readily.

Cooking.—Bad cooking is almost as great a cause of disease as bad rations. I do not know that the cooking of the soldiers in this Department has been worse than usual in camps; probably it has been about the same; still the Commanding General has thought the matter of sufficient importance to make it the subject of a recent general order, in which the surgeon, with one other officer of the regiment, is required to visit the cook-houses and inspect the cooking, giving directions to the cooks, if necessary, three times daily. When visiting the camps, I

often found the surgeons engaged in this work, and I am convinced much good will result from it, not only from the advice of those who should be able to give it, but by causing the cooks themselves to feel that they have been placed under a more rigid surveillance.

Spirits of the Men.—As a rule, the men were cheerful and hopeful. This feeling was most apparent among the old regiments which came to the Department in 1861, and among the colored troops, with whom it rose to enthusiasm. Depression of spirits were acknowledged most frequently among the troops on Folly Island.

Hospitals.—The sick in hospital were, without exception, treated in tents. These were generally floored, furnished with frame bunks, tolerably supplied with bedding and clothing, and on the whole quite as neat and comfortable as I have ever seen regimental hospitals in our armies. The condition of the hospitals on Morris Island was perhaps something superior to that generally observed on Folly. Surgeons have at times been short of medical supplies of certain kinds, but at present there is no want. Some difficulty is still experienced in obtaining delicacies for the sick; a difficulty which would be most seriously felt, but for the large issues which are daily made to the hospitals from the storehouse of the Commission.

Sickness Rates.—The following statement will show the amount and per centage of sickness prevailing among the troops inspected on Morris Island and Folly. The inspections were concluded during the week preceding the 17th October.

Present strength, enlisted men.....	——
Whole number of sick.....	——
No. sick in hospital, (regimental)....	573
Per cent. sick in hosp. & quarters...	17.8
" " " " (regimental)..	2.9
" " " Morris Island.....	18.3
" " " Folly Island.....	17.2
Highest sick rate, Folly Island, 144th N. Y.....	41.1
Lowest " " " 107th Ohio	2.5
Highest " "Morris, 10th Conn.	70.1
Lowest " " " 3d R. I...	4.0
Per cent. sick in colored regiments..	19.3

I am not able to give the exact number of sick who have been sent from the army before Charleston to the General Hospitals at Beaufort and Hilton Head. They cannot, however, increase the average rate of sickness more than two per cent. This would give 20 per cent. as the sickness rate in the army before Charleston in October last.

In estimating the per centage of sickness on Morris Island, I have excluded those under treatment for wounds, who, if included with the sick, would add 1.1 per cent. to the rate of sickness.

The great difference between the per centage in hospital and the per centage excused from duty will be at once observed. In the regiment reporting the largest number of sick, the 10th Conn., only 4 per cent. were in hospital, yet 70 per cent. of the present strength of the regiment were on the sick list. The reports from other regiments show an almost equal disparity between the numbers sick in hospital and quarters. The only conclusion which can be drawn from such facts is, that the diseases prevailing among the troops are of a mild character.

The severe service exacted of the troops on Morris Island may fully account for the higher rates of sickness obtaining among them, and yet, excepting two or three regiments, such as the 10th Conn. and the 30th N. H., there is less sickness than on Folly Island. Thus, eight regiments, the 30th N. H., Indep't Battalion, N. Y., N. Y. Engineers, 100th N. Y., 52d Ohio, 47th N. Y., 104th Penn., 3d R. I., report not over 10 per cent. sick; while on Folly Island but four regiments: 107th Ohio, 41st N. Y., 74th Penn., 13th Indiana, report under 10 per cent. sick.

I cannot satisfactorily account for the different sickness rates in the 107th Ohio, and the 144th N. Y., in the 3d R. I., and the 10th Conn.

The 107th Ohio is a German regiment, and within the past year has suffered severely from disease. This fact has, no doubt, much to do with the present immunity.

The 3d R. I. has always been a healthy regiment, and in all matters of cleanliness a model. Being an artillery regiment, its service has differed from that which has devolved upon the infantry.

Per Centage of Sickness among Colored Troops.—The per centage of sickness among the colored troops was above the average. They have been heavily tasked, and although suffering much less from diarrhœa and dysentery than the white soldiers, are more subject to bronchitis and pulmonary difficulties. Moreover, the number of men suffering from chronic disabilities, which should have excluded them from the service, is unusually large; but especially is this the case with the regiments raised within the Department.

Prevailing Diseases—Camp Diarrhœa.—The prevailing disease not only in the whole command, but in each regiment, is *camp diarrhœa.* Dysentery is also very common, often following an attack of diarrhœa, frequently preceding it, and unquestionably arising from the same causes.

Camp diarrhœa is a disease probably more largely occasioned by general causes than most of those which the military surgeon is called upon to treat. Let an army be fed upon improper or scanty rations, and an increase in the number of diarrhœa cases will soon follow. Place the troops on the march or in the trenches, and diarrhœa will speedily make its appearance, and if the fatigue duties are burdensome and long continued, it will finally outrank all other diseases in the number of its victims. In a word, *want*—want of food, want of clothing, want of rest, want of spirits, everything which tends to break down the vital power of the soldier, is almost certain to occasion diarrhœa, and it is produced by the same causes with equal certainty, if not equal severity, in all our armies, whether in Virginia, Carolina, or the States bordering on the Gulf. According to the report on sickness and mortality of the army during the first year of the war, "diarrhœa and dysentery caused about one-fourth of all the sickness reported. On the Atlantic border more than half the army suffered, and in the central region the number of cases almost equaled the mean strength."

I believe the present tendency to diarrhœa and dysentery among the troops in the Department of the South to be attributable, in no inconsiderable degree, to special causes, but to result from a combination of such general causes as have been observed to develop elsewhere a similar tendency. Perhaps the most efficient of these general causes has been the excessive duty which the character of the siege has exacted, and which, at times, has fallen heavily upon the whole army. From the commencement of the Teche campaign until the fall of Port Hudson, every new advance and every additional imposition of field duty filled our hospitals and our camps with nerveless, spiritless, exhausted men, sick with diarrhœa.

Another cause common to our whole army is to be found in the unwholesome and unsuitable ration issued by the Government. This subject I have already alluded to.

But it may be asked, Why do these general causes, which must at times have operated with equal force in other divisions of our army, occasion this very great prevalence of diarrhœa among the troops before Charleston? As may be inferred from preceding remarks, I question whether the present prevalence of diarrhœa in the army of the South is unusual among troops whose general history has been the same. I believe diarrhœa to have prevailed in the army before Port Hudson in July last nearly, if not quite as extensively as it ever has on Morris Island.

It would be interesting to compare the reports sent from the two armies to the Surgeon-General's office.

Still, in whichsoever army this disease may have prevailed most extensively, special and local causes may have existed in both.

The army before Charleston is subject to the effects of an insular and semi-tropical climate, the characteristic features of which are a hot sun and a humid atmosphere, moving in strong currents inland from the ocean. The days are hot, the nights cool and damp. Even during the day, although the direct and reflected heat of the sun may be most oppressive in the shade, the sea-breeze appears delightfully cool and refreshing.

These differences of temperature of day and of night, in the sun and in the shade, cannot but unfavorably affect men who, engaged in laborious duties, are constantly

exposed to them, and often without the means of guarding against them.

Again, it should be observed that the army landed before Charleston and conducted its difficult and laborious siege operations at a season of the year generally regarded as most unfavorable to active campaigning.

Fevers.—Fevers have occasioned some sickness and considerable mortality.

The fever most frequently seen is that called typhoid, or typho-malarial; the malarial features of the disease being marked, while the typhoid predominate. Well-marked cases of remittent and intermittent fever occasionally occur, but these diseases can by no means be called prevalent. Several regiments returned but a case or two, and one, the 40th Mass., reported not a case of either, and yet this regiment had over 37 per cent. of its present strength on the sick list. It is an interesting fact, that not a single case of pernicious fever was reported to me as having occurred on Morris Island or on Folly since the occupation by our forces in July last. There have been but few cases of this form of malarious fever reported during the past three months in the Department, and they have, for the most part, originated on Port Royal Island.

Diarrhœa, although prevailing extensively, is neither a very severe nor a very fatal disease. It prevails rather in quarters than in hospitals. During the first year of the war, the mortality from diarrhœa varied in the several Departments from 0.9 to 9.6 deaths per thousand cases. Fevers, on the other hand, more generally send the patient to the hospital. While they constitute but a small proportion of the whole number of cases, they exhibit a large per centage among the sick in hospital, as well as a large relative mortality. During the first year of the war the mortality from "camp fever" varied, in the several Departments, from 60.95 to 101.8 deaths per thousand cases.

This relation is very well illustrated by the following abstract from the records of the General Hospital at Hilton Head, showing the number of cases and diseases admitted into the General Hospital from July 1st to Oct. 20th, 1863, together with the deaths occurring from each cause during the same period:

July, 1863. Diseases.	Patients Admitted.	Died.
Fevers	88	18
Diarrhœa	66	2
Other Diseases	64	4
Bowels	265	17
Total	483	41
August.		
Fevers	70	7
Diarrhœa	27	5
Other Diseases	26	4
Bowels	7	10
Total	130	26
September.		
Fevers	41	4
Diarrhœa	11	3
Other Diseases	8	2
Bowels	2	0
Total	62	9
October.		
Fevers	22	1
Diarrhœa	15	7
Other Diseases	19	1
Bowels	2	0
Not diagnosed	18	0
Total	76	9
Recapitulation.		
Fevers	221	30
Diarrhœa	119	17
Other Diseases	117	11
Bowels	276	27
Not diagnosed	18	00
Total	751	85

The preceding table does not, however, fairly exhibit the relative prevalence of the diseases now under treatment in the general hospitals of Beaufort. On the 25th of October a very large proportion were cases of diarrhœa. The prevalence of diarrhœa has, however, only been remarkable since about the 1st of October, at which time a large number of convalescents were sent North, and the hospitals filled with subjects of chronic diarrhœa, who were gathered together from the different regimental hospitals.

Scurvy.—I consulted the surgeons of 41 regiments, including the surgeons of the 3d R. I. and the 127th N. Y., with reference to the existence of scurvy among the troops. Of these, six only reported one or more cases of scurvy then under treatment; eight others had seen one or more cases since landing before Charleston. Twenty-

seven surgeons had not seen a case in the regiments to which they were attached. The only cases I saw were in the First North Carolina Regiment (colored.) In this regiment there was probably more scorbutic disease than in all the rest of the command.

The disease, however, originated in North Carolina, and had made its appearance among the contrabands on Hatteras Island, before they were enrolled as soldiers. The disease at present is almost entirely confined to the recruits from that island.

The 11th Maine reported more cases of scurvy than any other white regiment. This regiment, just arrived on Morris Island, had been stationed for a long time at Fernandina, where it appears to a considerable extent cut off from its supplies.

Well-marked cases of scurvy are extremely infrequent, and always have been. Indeed, the disease can hardly be said to exist at present; and, yet, there is a sub-scorbutic tendency, or cachexia, resulting from the use of improper, as well as insufficient rations, which more or less modifies the type of all diseases.

Mortality.—I have not the data for estimating the rates of mortality obtaining among our force at the time of my inspection, or during any portion of the siege. The deaths reported to me in the tabular abstracts are probably much below the actual number occurring. This certainly is true of several regiments, and renders comparative estimates impossible.

Conclusion.—From the facts brought to my knowledge, as well as from the observations personally made while in the Department of the South, I am led to the following conclusions:

First. That the duties exacted of the army before Charleston, difficult and exhausting although they may have been, have not been heavier than those which at times have been required of our troops in other Departments.

Second. That rations, clothing, medical stores and supplies of all kinds, although occasionally of an inferior quality and scantily issued, have yet been furnished to the troops, whether in camp or in the field, as liberally as to any command under similar circumstances in any Department with which I am acquainted.

Third. That no diseases either have prevailed or are now prevailing to an extent greater than has frequently been observed in our armies either during or subsequent to active campaigns; and that the prevailing diseases have originated to but a limited degree in special or local causes.

Fourth. That the hospitals, both general and regimental, are in a most creditable condition, and that our sick and wounded soldiers are well cared for.

Fifth. That the sanitary condition of the army has been slowly but steadily improving for several weeks; the change being not less marked in the reduced number of cases than in the milder forms which the prevailing diseases have assumed.

With supplies now more abundant as the requirements of the service grow less rigorous, as the unhealthy season has passed and the winter approaches, I have little reason to doubt but that the rates of sickness will continue to be reduced, until the sanitary condition of the army of the South may become as satisfactory as usual.

THE COMMISSION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Head-Quarters Third Regiment
New Hampshire Volunteers,
Morris Island, S. C., *Oct.* 1, 1863.

To the Sanitary Commission:

It is with inexpressible, yet heartfelt thankfulness, that we look back upon the few weeks which have passed since our entering upon this island, and mark the bountiful and benevolent labors of the Sanitary Commission.

In the midst of excessive labor, danger and hardship, when, owing to unavoidable circumstances always attending an active campaign, the wants of the troops can at least be but imperfectly supplied; just at this time of want, the Commission hailed us with open hands and a liberal heart. The wants of our sick and wounded were met, greatly to their comforts—while the entire regiment soon became indebted to the Commission for favors—in view of which, it is with great pleasure and unanimity that, as a regiment, we express to the Commission the following resolutions, our high appreciation of their work of benevolence, together with our most sincere thanks for the many favors received during the past:

1. *Resolved*, That the Sanitary Commission,

as conducted in this Department, has our highest respect and entire confidence.

2. *Resolved*, That, as a regiment, we tender a unanimous vote of thanks to the Commission for its unprecedented work of benevolence, and great amount of good already accomplished, and of which we are witnesses.

J. HOMER EDGERLY,
2d Lieut. and Act'g Adj't 3d N. H. Volunteers.
JAMES F. RANDLETT,
Capt. 3d N. H. Vols., Commanding Regiment.

THE COMMISSION AT CHATTANOOGA.

As doubts have been expressed in some quarters touching the promptness with which the Sanitary Commission met the emergencies arising out of the battle of Chickamauga, there cannot be a better way of removing them than the publication of the following testimonials:

3d Division Hospital,
14th Army Corps,
Chattanooga, *Oct. 26th*, 1863.

I have no hesitation in saying that the U. S. Sanitary Commission have done much towards relieving the suffering of the brave soldiers of the 3d Division of the 14th Army Corps.

Immediately after the battle of Chickamauga our men were thrown together without the necessary supplies to render them comfortable, and, as far as it was possible, the Sanitary Commission supplied their wants.

What was done by them was done without any reference to locality; the wounded being cared for equally, whatever State they may have originally hailed from. The sick now in this Hospital have been kindly remembered by the Commission. Friends at home, speed on the good work so gloriously begun!

GEO. E. SLOAT,
Surg. in charge 3d Div. Hospital, 14th A. C.

Hospital No. 3,
Chattanooga, *Oct. 26th*, 1863.

It is with feelings of the deepest gratitude and admiration that I recall to mind the donations from the Sanitary Commission to this Hospital, immediately after its opening.

After the battles of the 19th and 20th ult. outside this city, the wounded were brought in in thousands, and this Hospital, in common with the rest, was filled to overflowing. Here was a state of affairs suddenly brought about, and to be immediately provided for—and here was the Sanitary Commission—here the hour of need—here it was an oasis in a desert. Here we received from it dressings for our wounded men, wines, clothing, and several luxuries and necessaries. No one who at this time witnessed the *timely and material aid* of the U. S. Sanitary Commission but must say, "It is truly a heavenly institution—may Heaven bless and preserve its supporters."

PETER H. CLEARY,
Surgeon U. S. V., in charge.

U. S. General Hospital No. 2,
Chattanooga, *Oct. 26th*, 1863.

It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the great and substantial benefit the sick and wounded under my charge, since the late battle of Chickamauga, have derived from the kindness and liberality of the U. S. Sanitary Commission at this place, under the charge of Mr. M. C. Read. Although their amount of supplies has necessarily been limited, owing to the great difficulties in procuring transportation, and the large number of wounded requiring assistance, yet the good results from what they have been able to accomplish in supplying the wounded and sick with clothing, dressings, necessaries and delicacies, are almost incalculable. A great deal of suffering and destitution has been relieved through their kindly ministrations, that (under the circumstances) could not otherwise have been provided for.

It is a glorious institution, and deserves the countenance and warm support of every Christian and philanthropist.

FRANKLIN IRISH,
Surgeon in charge General Hospital No. 2.

Hospital No. 1, 1st Div. A. C.,
Chattanooga, *Oct. 25th*, 1863.

It is with great pleasure that I avail myself of this opportunity to bear testimony to the great good accomplished by the U. S. Sanitary Commission. The benefits conferred upon the sick and wounded by this benevolent institution are far greater than our friends at home can imagine; and even laboring under the many difficulties by which they are surrounded, they still continue their good work.

Friends of the soldier and the soldier himself should feel themselves as greatly benefited by this Commission; and I heartily recommend that all "friends of the soldier" co-operate with the Commission, and add their help to push on the good work. It is a certain medium through which the soldier receives many necessaries for his comfort, while sick or wounded.

By order. E. H. DUNN,
Surgeon in charge.
Per Packard, Clerk.

FIELD HOSPITAL, R. C.,
Oct. 27th, 1863.

U. S. Commission, Chattanooga, Tenn.:

In behalf of the surgeons on duty in this hospital, and of the sick and wounded, I take occasion to tender grateful acknowledgments for the liberal contributions of sanitary stores which have upon various occasions been furnished by the Commission to those sick and wounded not only at Chattanooga, but at other points in the sick of the Army of the Cumberland.

In view of the fact that we are cut off from railroad communication, and of the almost impassable condition of the roads, we have been surprised that such liberal contributions could have been made. It is a fact, however, evincing great energy on the part of the agents of the Commission, showing them to be living, feeling men, working at the right time and place, and thus have they been able to meet the wants of the sick and wounded.

Very respectfully,
JOSEPH G. McPHEETERS,
Surgeon in charge Hospital R. C.

HOSPITAL No. 1,
CHATTANOOGA, *Oct. 27th*, 1863.

I have had charge of Hospital No. 1 at this place since the late battle. Over a thousand of the wounded have been received and treated as well as our limited supply would allow. Owing to the obstacles in the way of transportation, the supplies of clothing, dressings, and suitable food was very inadequate, in consequence of which there were some that suffered. And I take special pleasure in stating that if it had not been for the timely donations of the Sanitary Commission, many more would have suffered. Their donations of delicacies, dressings, and *clothing*, were of incalculable benefit to our wounded. There was not enough on hand for the men to have a change; hence the supply of shirts furnished by the Commission was a gift that was much needed and deeply appreciated. The good deeds of the Sanitary Commission will be long remembered by the suffering wounded of this hospital, and will ever be appreciated by

J. Y. FINLEY,
Surgeon 2d Ky. Cavalry, in charge.

OFFICERS' HOSPITAL,
CHATTANOOGA, *Oct. 26th*, 1863.

In the midst of the confusion and suffering immediately after the battle of Chickamauga, the Sanitary Commission came nobly to the rescue; nourished the wounded and famished soldier, pillowed his weary head, and by their timely aid saved many valuable lives.

C. C. BYRNE,
Assistant Surgeon U. S. Army, in charge.

We commented in the second number of the BULLETIN upon the difficulties we had to contend with in the West in obtaining transport, and the almost as great and far more provoking difficulties arising out of the bad character of the teamsters, and the lamentable want of proper control over them on the part of the military authorities. The following letter will help to show the energetic nature of the measures taken by our Special Relief Agent at Chattanooga, Mr. Read, to meet these difficulties:

CHATTANOOGA, *Oct. 20th*, 1863.

F. R. CRASY, ESQ., Stevenson:

I telegraphed you last night in regard to our train, and write this morning more particularly.

I have just seen Col. Hodges, who says you will need no further orders to secure the 20 wagons as soon as you are ready to load them, and can have them permanently until further specific orders; that the Sanitary train can be attached to any train coming through, and that if there should be any difficulty in that respect, telegraph from Stevenson.

An order was sent to Nashville last night, directing two (2) car-loads of Sanitary stores to be forwarded at once, and after that, all that could be, and never less than half a car-load per day, that will keep us moving. For fear my letters may not have reached you, I would repeat my previous suggestions, that the whole twenty wagons be loaded at once with edibles, ten with vegetables if you have them, or with the amount of ten wagons, making each load as near 1,200 lbs. as you can, never over 1,400. This may be arranged by mixing the leading dried fruits and vegetables in the same wagon, adding to the vegetables and dried fruit all the butter, ale, stimulants, farinaceous delicacies, codfish, oysters, milk, beef, &c., &c., you can, taking an inventory of the contents of each wagon, its number, and the name of the driver; if you have them, give each driver a few vegetables. Secure, if you can, soldiers or enlisted men as drivers, not citizens, and tell Pocock, if necessary, to *shoot* the first man caught stealing.

It is essential that he accompany the train *through, never leaving it till it reaches our rooms.* When he gets this side the mountains, let him

send a message by the couriers who will be passing him, stating where he is, and when he will probably be in. Telegraph when the train starts, and keep them stirred up at the North, so that there shall never be a want of stores to load the train.

If surgeons make requisitions from here, either in hospitals or with regiments, furnish them with clothing and hospital dressings as liberally as you can.

* * * * * *

Dr. Newberry writes on the same subject:

We had the entire and hearty co-operation of the military and medical authorities, and yet were, of course, compelled to share with them the inevitable necessities by which they were controlled. *More than our share* of transportation was granted at once, and when our first train of seventeen loaded wagons were included in the destruction of the three hundred loaded with Government stores, another train of twenty wagons was ordered for us, and from that time to the opening of the river we fully shared all the resources of the military and medical authorities. On the first trip of the steamboat, by the authority of Gen. Meigs himself, who was there, we were allowed to make up a liberal share of its load, and from that time to this, by special and comprehensive orders, we have been furnished with a regular allotment of transportation of a car-load a day from Nashville to Chattanooga. *From here we forwarded all and more than could by any possibility reach the scene of suffering.* In addition to the very liberal stock held in reserve at Nashville and below previous to the battle, we have since forwarded there over 5,000 packages.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION AND THE CHRISTIAN COMMISSION.

We have taken from the outset all possible pains to prevent any misapprehension as to the relations existing between ourselves and the Christian Commission. What these relations are and ought to be, is clearly pointed out in the following letter of instructions to our Inspectors, issued last December:

CENTRAL OFFICE, SANITARY COMMISSION,
WASHINGTON, *Dec. 16th*, 1862.

To each Inspector of the Sanitary Commission:

The Christian Commission is a body designed to supplement and assist the chaplain service of the Army and Navy, as the Sanitary Commission does the medical service. Its accredited agents in the field are termed "Delegates of the Christian Commission;" they distribute books and tracts, and also give spiritual counsel verbally. The Secretary of the Christian Commission has expressed the wish that their attention should not be distracted from this, their ordinary duty, by undertaking personally the distribution of supplies. It is not considered best that they should attempt to perform their ordinary duty, however, during the tumult resulting from battles, and it is desired that they should be employed in giving such assistance as they can in the measures taken for the saving of life and mitigation of the suffering of the wounded on these occasions. It is proposed that they should, for this purpose, act at such times under the advice of the Medical Officers of the Commission.

You are therefore instructed, whenever the delegates of the Christian Commission offer to give you their aid for battle-field relief operations, or in other emergencies, to accept it gratefully; and, for the time being, you will deal with them, as far as possible, in the same manner as you would if each individual had been sent to you for special battle-field duty by officers of the Commission.

You are also instructed at all times to give special attention to the representations of the accredited agents of the Christian Commission with regard to the wants of the hospitals, and will meet those wants to the extent of the means at your control as far as possible, consistently with a just prospective regard for the wants of others.

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,
General Secretary.

We know of nothing calculated to create an impression that the course here traced out has since been departed from either by the agents of the Christian Commission or by our own; nor do we know of anything that ought to lead anybody to suppose that two such organizations cannot work usefully side by side; more usefully, in fact, side by side than singly or apart. It is not always necessary, however, that false impressions should have foundation in fact in order to obtain currency. We heard the other day that the salaries paid to the agents of the Sanitary Commission in California alone amounted to $40,000 annually; the fact being that we have never had an agent in California, and consequently no salaries

have ever been drawn, though we have received immense donations from that State with little or no solicitation. Reports equally baseless are frequently put in circulation as to a conflict of interests and of aims between us and the Christian Commission, and we shall probably be compelled to recur to the subject occasionally for the purpose of correcting them.

The following letter shows the nature of the feeling existing between the two bodies in the West:

U. S. Christian Commission,
Branch Office,
Nashville, *July* 23, 1863.

Dr. J. S. Newberry,

Sec'y West'n Dep't U. S. Sanitary Commission, Louisville:

My Dear Sir—I desire, on behalf of the Christian Commission, to render grateful acknowledgment for the uniform, generous and cordial co-operation of yourself and the agents of your Commission in our work of bringing spiritual comforts and blessings to the soldiers. But for your assistance at the first, and its continuance all along, our work would have been greatly impeded in the army of the Cumberland.

Also in my recent trip to Vicksburg, in the service of the Christian Commission, I was at all points kindly received and materially aided by the Sanitary Commission. My own feelings—that the work of both Commissions, though wrought in different departments, should be entirely co-operative—were fully reciprocated by your agents at Cairo, Memphis, and on the Barge on Yazoo River.

My observations of your work on that Barge were very pleasant. I saw stores dispensed to needy applicants most freely, and in surprising quantity and variety; and when I got back to the Bluffs, where the sick and wounded were coming into the division hospitals, I found bedding with your mark, dried and canned fruit, and lemons and chickens, which could have been furnished from no other source. I knew that, without the timely help of the Sanitary Commission, there would have been destitution, and consequent suffering, in many of those hospitals.

I want to bear testimony to the noble Christian philanthropy of the men in charge of your Commission in that department. I am persuaded they could not do that work from unworthy motives. Money could not procure such services as you are receiving, for instance, from Dr. Warriner at Vicksburg.

Every week's experience in my army work, bringing me among the camps and through the hospitals, and giving an opportunity, which I always improve, to look in at the different quarters of your Commission, leads me to a continually higher estimate of the work you have on hand. I am satisfied that your system of distributing hospital supplies is the correct one. Such large contributions as the people are making cannot be handed over to the army on any volunteer system, unless it be for a few days amid the emergencies of a severe battle. A business involving such expenditure would be intrusted by a business man only to permanent and responsible agents.

That among all your employés there should be no unworthy man, is more than a reasonable mind can ask. The Christian Commission and the Christian Church would go down under that test.

Let me close this letter of thanks, my dear brother, with my daily prayer—a prayer which I learned in your Soldiers' Home in Louisville, and have often repeated since in the Soldiers' Rest at Memphis, on the Barge in Yazoo River, in the division hospitals under the guns of Vicksburg, in the Nashville Home and Storeroom, and in the camps and hospitals at Murfreesboro'; a prayer fresh on my lips, as I have just come from seeing wounded and typhoid patients at Tullahoma and Winchester lifted from rough blankets and undressed from the soiled clothes of march and battle, and laid in your clean sheets and shirts upon your comfortable quilts and pilows—a prayer in which every Christian heart in the land will yet join—God bless the Sanitary Commission.

Most cordially yours,
EDW. P. SMITH,
Field Agent, U. S. Christian Commission.

A still fuller explanation of the relations of the two bodies is afforded by the following letter:

U. S. Sanitary Commission,
823 Broadway,
New York, *November 19th*, 1863.

Rev. Dr. Hawes:

Rev. and Dear Sir—A mutual acquaintance having informed me that you had made inquiry as to the relations existing between the U. S. Sanitary Commission and its colleague and coworker, the U. S. Christian Commission, and as to the different modes of work of the two bodies, I venture to make to you the following statements:

I speak first of the Sanitary Commission. Its functions are two-fold. First, in the discharge

of the duty imposed by its charter from the President of the United States, of inquiry and advice in respect to the sanitary interests of the United States forces, it, as the ground of its efforts to prevent disease in the army, inspects the condition of camps, barracks, transports, and hospitals, and makes report of deficiencies which are remediable to medical and military officers, and to Heads of the Governmental administration, when necessary. Being by its charter placed on a confidential footing with the official bureaux of the Government, it has thus been enabled to secure considerable reforms affecting the health and efficiency of the National Army. It also prints and circulates in the army, in large numbers, treatises, prepared for it by eminent medical men, on the chief sources of sickness in armies, and the means of avoiding and treating them. In these and in many other ways the Commission does much to prevent disease in the army—a better service than relieving it. Secondly—recognizing the fact that the most liberal and thoughtful Government must, in time of war, by the checks restricting its issues for the comfort of its troops —checks rendered necessary to prevent fraud and secure accountability—still, whatever its liberality and prevision, leave unrelieved much suffering—it seeks to be the minister of the people's bounty to those who are the victims of this exceptional working of the Governmental machinery. It also aims to relieve, wherever it can, the unavoidable suffering attendant on battles and the rapid movements of armies; (*e. g.*, at the sudden evacuation of the line from Falmouth to Aquia Creek, in June, the Commission's agents at the latter place were called upon, within two or three days, to feed and otherwise comfort 8,000 sick in transit to the hospitals at Washington.)

It also gathers into temporary "Homes" and "Lodges" the estrays of the army, discharged men, soldiers on furlough with defective papers which obstruct their movements, and affords to each the aid his necessity requires, taking good care that it harbors no deserters, or only for the purpose of returning them to service.

These ends it accomplishes through the bounty of the public, wherever the National Armies go or the nation's sick are gathered.

It exercises its functions to-day in Kansas, in Arkansas, at Chattanooga, all along the Mississippi, from Cairo to New Orleans, on the Rio Grande, amid the baleful swamps of Louisiana, in the trenches before Charleston, in Florida and North Carolina, on the peninsula of Virginia, on the margin of the Rapidan, with our recently starved and prison-marked, now paroled and dying brothers at Annapolis, and on the flag-of-truce boats, where first they realize the value of a friend in need—on every battle-field and in every hospital claiming its succor. It seeks not only to comfort the individual, but, by its union of preventive and alleviative efforts, it effects the invigoration of the national arm, and adds to the national strength.

In its ministrations it knows no State lines, and recognizes in the national uniform only the soldier of the nation.

It has thus far effected the objects above mentioned through an organization constantly improved by experience; and now, in the latter half of its third year, points to a great army of witnesses to its beneficence in proof that it has earned and justified the public confidence so generously granted to it. In the future, as in the past, it must depend for its power for usefulness on the free-will contributions of money to its treasury, and of supplies of hospital food and clothing to its storehouse.

Such is an imperfect sketch of the objects and methods of the U. S. Sanitary Commission.

The U. S. Christian Commission is understood to be "a body designed to supplement the chaplain service of the Army and Navy, as the Sanitary Commission does the medical service." It brings to our troops in camp and hospital, in the persons of its Delegates, spiritual counsel and consolation, and seeks to promote in the army the religious life which struggles there against such fearful odds. Yet, in ministering to the soul, it does not despise its tabernacle, but accompanies its visits, and its gifts of religious books and papers, with the bestowal of food and raiment for the suffering body.

This, however, is a duty subsidiary to the prime one of religious ministration, and more than one officer of the Christian Commission has expressed his anxiety lest it should distract the mind of their delegates from their ordinary duties. It must be evident, however, that to some extent it all the better prepares the way for the cordial reception of their offices.

It may thus be seen that while each of the bodies above mentioned engages, to some degree, in the work especially characteristic of the other, (for the Sanitary Commission distributes annually tons of religious and miscellaneous reading matter, and the army chaplains, of whatever denomination, will tell you that they have found it no languid auxiliary to their work,) yet that it has, by virtue of its animating

principle, an essentially distinct work. The work of neither can be left undone. It cannot be given to another. Need we doubt that the Inspirer of all good thoughts and deeds has, by the ordering of His providence, allotted to each its proper work? Far be the thought that either would desire aught but blessing for the other!

And practically I do not find in the army any conflict in our respective spheres. There is more than enough for us all to do, each in his allotted place. Both in the armies on the coast and in the Mississippi Valley, the representatives of each have been in the habit of exchanging offices of courtesy, and maintain cordial personal relations. It is chiefly, I suspect, in the home field that there now and then appears to be a seeming rivalry. Until the millennium dawns we shall all, I doubt not, have more or less of partisan feeling enlisted for our especial work, magnifying its claims, and demanding that they shall engross public attention. The susceptibilities of our friends take alarm lest we hold not our proper rank in the public esteem, and hence what may be an honorable jealousy for our respective projects.

I cannot believe that the governing boards of either the Sanitary or Christian Commission have any such unbecoming fear. The loyal public which supports the National Government will not neglect either while it discharges its work with zeal, economy, and discretion. It will give to each its alms and its prayers, and stay not any effort to hasten the time when the need for each shall be done away.

I send to you herewith, in support of what I have written, and illustrative of the work of the Sanitary Commission, a collection of documents, among which I would especially call your attention to the letter of instructions to the Inspectors of the Sanitary Commission, written in 1862, by Fred. Law Olmsted, Esq., General Secretary; and to the letter of Rev. Edw. P. Smith, Field Agent of the U. S. Christian Commission in the West. (*Sanitary Reporter*, Aug. 15, 1863, p. 54.) Mr. Olmsted's letter was written after a very cordial and mutually satisfactory interchange of opinion between prominent officers of the two Commissions, and as the partial expression of a compact made between them as to their respective labors.

The U. S. Sanitary Commission considers the obligations it assumed as still binding, and so, from time to time, instructs those serving it.

I could wish that what I have written might move you, and perchance others, to a still more systematic support of both of these organized expressions of the Christian philanthropy of our people; and in the hope that it can in no way diminish the wide-spread sympathy for either,

I am, Rev. Sir, with high regard,

Respectfully yours,

J. FOSTER JENKINS,

General Secretary.

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4*th. To give gratuitous advice and information to soldiers and sailors or their families needing it.*

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The Sanitary Commission has made arrangements for supplying information gratuitously, with regard to patients in all the United States General Hospitals.

For information relative to patients in the Hospitals in Eastern Virginia, Maryland, District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C."

For the Hospitals in Pennsylvania, address "Office of Sanitary Commission, No. 1,307 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia."

For the Hospitals in New York, New Jersey, and the New England States, address "Office Women's Central Union, No. 10 Cooper Institute, New York."

For the Hospitals in Western Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas, address "Office Sanitary Commission, Louisville, Ky."

In all cases the name, rank, company, and regiment of the person inquired for should be given, and where he was when last heard from. If the application is by letter, the answer will be sent by return of mail; if in person, it will be answered at once; or if by telegraph, an answer will be returned immediately at the inquirer's expense.

☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

The Sanitary Commission, under special authority of the President of the United States, maintains an extensive system of agencies for securing the safe conveyance to, and distribution of, goods put in its charge for the sick and wounded at points where they are most wanted. It operates with equal care and generosity at all points—at New Orleans and at Washington, before Charleston and at Chattanooga—its distributions being governed by a comparison of the wants of the patients in all cases. The following is a list of depots, to which auxiliary societies, and all disposed to aid the sick and wounded, without reference to States or localities, but simply to their relative necessity for assistance, are invited to send their offerings:

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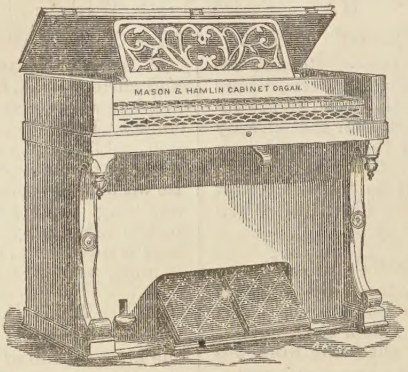

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